

October 16, 2009

Fall courses offering a diversity of topics and approaches

The current semester is varied in many ways compared to past practices, with a course offered on Wednesday at Eastern Maine Community College as well as Friday courses at either UMaine in Orono or at University College of Bangor. Three courses have activities scheduled on days other than Friday and three courses are offering field trips near and far. The Spinning a Yarn course is meeting at the Page Farm and Home Museum while the Basics of Electricity class is meeting at the Orono United Methodist Church. Class size varies from seven or eight to 41 with most two dozen or less. Four of our 14 courses have a series of presenters facilitated by a Curriculum Committee member rather than a single teacher.

Our fall course offerings have been strengthened by several volunteers who are teaching for the first time:

Hugh Morrison & Lola Bullion (Coordinators)	How the Maine Legislature Works
Jaquie Sullivan & Jean Martin	Duplicate Bridge
Molly Duplisea-Palmer	Personal Journal Writing
Mary Dickinson Bird	Spinning a Yarn: The Story of Fiber in Maine
Maria Kreilkamp (Coordinator)	Treasures of Bangor
Paul and Tom Reagan (Coordinators)	Behind the Scenes in Law Enforcement
Lola Bullion (Coordinator)	Environmental Awareness
Fred Otto	Basic Electricity
Rick Eason	Plane Talk: Aviation for the Armchair Pilot

Spring courses are now being planned

Now is the time to consider what spring 2010 course you would like to teach or organize as a facilitator. The Curriculum Committee will hold a meeting on October 22 to continue to gather suggestions for spring courses with plans to offer about 15 classes tentatively scheduled from March 5 to April 9. Several people have already volunteered to teach during the spring, but many more courses would be welcome. Contact Christina Diebold, Curriculum Committee chair, to let her know of your interest. She can be contacted at 941-1670 or by email at cpdiebold@yahoo.com.

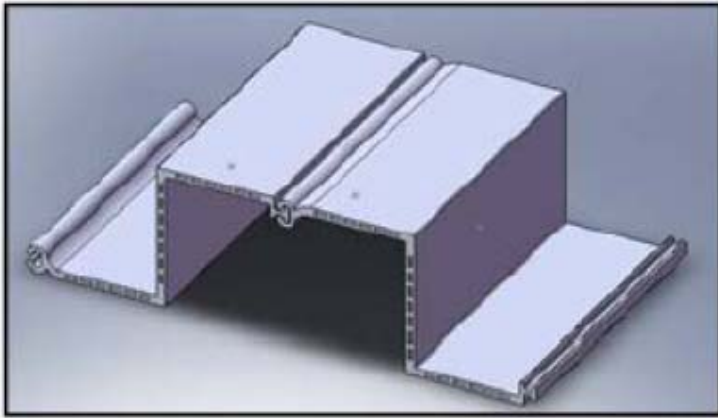
Stan Marshall will complete his executive director responsibilities on October 31

Stan Marshall, who has been interim executive director since April 2008, has informed the board of directors that he will complete his responsibilities on October 31 as he has accepted an invitation from the AARP Tax-Aide program to be their New England regional coordinator. He will wrap up the fall semester and assist in the transition to a new management. The Executive Committee will explore management alternatives that may be beneficial to Senior College, including inviting members to become more active as volunteers to undertake some of the current responsibilities of the executive director.

It's time to register for the Meeting of the Minds conference November 4 - 6

The annual Maine Senior College Network-sponsored Meeting of the Minds conference is scheduled from November 4 – 6 at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks in South Portland. The opening event will be a welcome reception and dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. on the 4th. The conference will continue all-day Thursday and Friday morning with “scholars” and “leaders” topics to attract those who enjoy senior college courses and/or would like to become more familiar with its organization and administration.

Penobscot Valley Senior College will be represented in the “scholars” track by John Bear Mitchell, one of our teachers, who will discuss “Respecting Our Elders – a Traditional Wabanaki Teaching.” We will be represented on two panels by members Diane Cutler, who will participate in “Planning Programs, Finding Faculty and Creating Community,” and Dick Eustis, our president, who will be a panelist for “Senior College Board Operations.” Program details and registration information are available at www.maineseniorcollege.org.



Drawing of recently patented
sheet piling



**November 13,
2009**

10 a.m. – noon

AEWC Advanced Structures & Composites Center UMaine - Orono

New technologies based on non-typical materials

Professor Habib Dagher made a persuasive presentation to Senior College in March, describing the potential of offshore wind farms to provide renewable, nonpolluting energy for Maine and the Northeast.

He and his team at the University of Maine have developed innovations in materials and construction that also can have a favorable environmental impact and that have led to new businesses already in operation, with others in the planning stages.

His “bridge in a back pack” significantly reduces construction cost and time for replacing short bridges and culverts. Who would have guessed that plastics could replace steel beams?

His new patent for reinforcing the edges of oriented strand board, commonly used to sheath new buildings, shows the way to strengthen construction panels and increase their durability.

The latest innovation to be patented is a unique extruded sheet piling made of old soda bottles and sawdust, which will last longer in contact with water without the pollution effects of pressure-treated wood.

All this technology began with adding layers of fiberglass to manufactured beams to allow them to cover long spans, such as from the shore to a float, to service boats along the coast.

The Quarterly News from AEWCC can be found at:

http://www2.umaine.edu/aewc/images/stories/web_uploads/sept_2009_newsletter.pdf

There is no telling what will be new at AEWCC at the time of our tour in a few weeks!

The tour will be held at the AEWCC building at UMaine in Orono. Suggested parking is at the Collins Center for the Arts. On approaching the Center for the Arts, turn right and go to the AEWCC building on the right.

You are receiving this invitation because this limited registration program is a benefit of being a member of Penobscot Valley Senior College.

To register for the program, please call the Senior College message phone at 262-7927.

Leave your name and phone number. Registrations will be acknowledged by mail on November 6.

Parking permits are available at the Public Safety Building accessed from the Park Street entrance to UMaine. It is across from the Collins Center for the Arts.